



SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR. BHEKI CELE DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF MAFKATHINI ROAD – D1133 ON SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2008.

All Protocol Observed.

- The KZN Department of Transport is spending millions of rands in this District through investment on infrastructure that unlocks local economic development, links communities with social and economic services, and ensures that the quality of life for rural communities is improved.
- We have injected cash in the road maintenance, the construction of new infrastructure, special projects and poverty alleviation and empowerment.
- But I want to emphasize that when we bring these projects we do it for people irrespective of which political party they belong to. At least our people who have waited so long for a better life are now on record giving testimony that indeed, we do follow-up on our commitments.
- The transportation infrastructure for the Vulindlela area falls under the DoT's jurisdiction for construction and maintenance. In the Vulindlela area, there are nine Msunduzi Municipal Wards and the respective councillors of these wards have always requested that the Msunduzi Municipality should undertake some road projects in additional to the work being undertaken by the DOT.

- Therefore the Msunduzi Municipality decided to identify at least one major road project for these wards and applications to MIG for funding was made. District road D1133 was then identified for ward 9. This project was then designed to the DOT's standards for district roads.
- My Department is prepared to assist municipalities with capacity when planning road infrastructure. We have been requested by some municipalities to maintain their roads, but only to find that those roads were not properly designed and to maintain them will be like reconstructing them entirely. We say now we will not maintain municipal roads that were not planned in consultation with us as the Department of Transport.
- Construction on this 3,6km road commenced on the 21 January 2008 and was completed on the 22 September 2008. The total project cost was R 8 441 438.88 of which R450 000 was provided by Msunduzi Municipality as counter funding.
- D 1133 serves a large community in this area, where by the road provides the main access into the area, access to the school and the nearby clinic and can be considered a public transport route. By upgrading this road, the lives of the community has been uplifted as there is now no more dust and they now have a surfaced road that provides access to the area through out the year.
- Apart from the upgrade of this road, we have other roads that are currently being upgraded in the Vulindlela Area / Mzunduzi Municipality – D 1123, D 1125, D 1127, D 1131, D 1132, D 1137 and D 2151. In upgrading all these roads, it will assist in making their maintenance a lot easier.
- I am pleased to announce that a number of roads in this District of is maintained through our poverty alleviation programme Zibambele. This programme has recruited more than 3 200 contractors in the Umgungundlovu District and during this financial year we are investing R18 million in the programme. These women have formed 23 savings clubs that have saved more than R1,2 million to date.

- Indeed, our people have only begun to see change in their lives through our democratic government's development programmes.
- In closing, I want to emphasize that the Department of Transport has a constitutional responsibility to ensure that our people have a safe and reliable transport system in the province. I am emphasizing road safety here because it has become clear that there is no use to build roads that will kill our people.
- Each person that dies or is seriously injured on our roads is a tragedy for the individuals, the families and communities, and for the nation as a whole. So, we need to strengthen our road safety awareness campaigns wherever we are, so that we build roads in order to develop people, and not to kill them.

I thank you